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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/719,208

11/20/2003

Adrian P. Stephens

1020.P16292

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10/02/2006

KACVINSKY LLC

C/O INTELLEVATES

P.O. BOX 52050

MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402

EXAMINER

PHU, SANH D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2618

DATE MAILED: 10/02/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/719,208	STEPHENS ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sanh D. Phu	2618	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8/4/06.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-36 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 35 and 36 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-34 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is responsive to the Election filed on 8/4/06.

Accordingly, claims 1–34 are elected and claims 35 and 36 are withdrawn from further consideration.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1–15, 17–26, 28–32 and 34 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hartman (7,016,296).

–Regarding to claim 1, Hartman discloses a method comprising:

procedure (200) (see figure 2) of transmitting a registration request (see (802) of figure 8)), (considered here equivalent with the limitation “medium reservation request message”), from a first station (200) to initiate training and to request a medium reservation (see col. 12, lines 22–42);

procedure (104) (see figure 2) of receiving by a second station (104) a medium reservation reply message granting a medium reservation request and providing training feedback (see (804, 808) of figure 8, col. 11, line 9 to col. 12, line 53); and

procedure (200) of selecting at least one data transmission parameter based on the received training feedback (see (916) of figure 9, col. 13, lines 1–8).

–Regarding to claim 2, Hartman discloses procedure (200) of transmitting data according to the at least one data transmission parameter (see col. 13, lines 1–8).

–Regarding to claim 3, in Hartman discloses, the medium reservation request message inherently includes training information (e.g., encoding scheme, symbol constellation configurations, etc.) so that the procedure (104)

can measure the characteristics of the received transmission of the medium reservation request message (see col. 5, lines 29–61, col. 12, lines 25–35).

–Regarding to claim 4, in Hartman, the training information comprises a sequence (MODULATED DATA) (see figure 7) (considered here equivalent with the limitation “training sequence”), e.g., for a measurement of SINR (see col. 5, lines 29–61, col. 10, lines 45–50).

–Regarding to claim 5, Hartman discloses that the training feedback comprises information feedback specifying at least one data transmission parameter to be used for transmitting data (see (808) of figure 8).

–Regarding to claim 6, Hartman discloses that the feedback describing at least one measured transmission condition comprises at least one from the group comprising: a measured signal to noise ratio; a presence of errors or not in received training information or other information; a number of errors detected; a bit error rate or packet error rate; and a measured signal strength (see col. 7, lines 65 to col. 8, line to col. 8, line 20).

–Regarding to claim 7, Hartman discloses that the measured transmission condition is measured on a per subcarrier basis (see col. 10, lines 45–50).

-Regarding to claim 8, Hartman discloses that the measured transmission condition is measured based on the transmission via an antenna (206) (see figure 2), or in another word, on a per antenna (206) basis.

-Regarding to claim 9, Hartman discloses that the selecting at least one data transmission parameter comprises selecting a data transmission parameter from the group including: a data rate; a modulation scheme; a coding rate; use and/or type of interleaving; and transmission power (see (916) of figure 9).

-Regarding to claim 10, Hartman that the selected data transmission parameter is selected on a per subcarrier basis (see col. 11, lines 25-58).

-Regarding to claim 11, Hartman discloses procedure (200) (see figure 2) of obtaining access to a wireless transmission medium which inherently must be prior to the transmitting a medium reservation request message (see col. 5, lines 11-27):

-Regarding to claim 12, Hartman discloses that the obtaining access comprises performing obtaining access to a wireless medium using a technique

(considered here equivalent with the limitation “polling access technique” or “contention based access technique”) (see col. 5, lines 11–27).

–Regarding to claim 13, Hartman discloses procedure (104) of receiving the medium reservation request message; measuring a transmission condition in response to the medium reservation request message; and transmitting the medium reservation reply message to grant the medium reservation request, the medium reservation reply message including training feedback (see figure 8).

–Regarding to claim 14, Hartman that the measuring comprises measuring a transmission condition based on training information provided in the medium reservation request message (see col. 5, lines 29–61, col. 12, lines 27–35).

–Regarding to claim 15, Hartman discloses that the medium reservation reply message includes training feedback, the training feedback comprising feedback specifying at least one data transmission parameter to be used for transmitting data (see (808) of figure 8).

-Regarding to claim 17, in Hartman, the registration request can be considered here as a request-to-send type message which initiates a receiving station (104) (see figure 1) to measure a transmission condition for training.

-Regarding to claim 18, in Hartman, the request-to-send type message registration request can be considered here as a request-to-send type message which includes training information (see (see col. 5, lines 29-61, col. 12, lines 25-35).

-Regarding to claim 19, Hartman discloses that the medium reservation reply message comprises a clear-to-send type message that also includes training feedback (see (904, 912) of figure 9).

-Regarding to claim 20, Hartman discloses procedure of sending data via the reserved medium according to the at least one selected transmission parameter (see (916) of figure 9).

-Regarding to claim 21, as similarly applied to claims 1-15, 17-20, set forth above and herein incorporated, Hartman discloses a method comprising:

procedure (104) (see figure 2) of receiving at a first station a medium reservation request message sent from a second station (200) (see (802) of figure 8);

procedure (104) of measuring a transmission condition in response to the medium reservation request message (see (804) of figure 8); and

procedure (104) of transmitting a medium reservation reply message from the first station to the second station, the medium reservation reply message granting the medium reservation request from the second station and including training feedback to be used by the second station to select or adapt at least one transmission parameter (see (808) of figure 8).

-Regarding to claim 22, Hartman discloses that the second station selects at least one data transmission parameter based on the received training feedback (see (916) of figure 9).

-Claim 23 is rejected with similar reasons set forth for claim 5.

-Claim 24 is rejected with similar reasons set forth for claim 3.

-Claim 25 is rejected with similar reasons set forth for claim 14.

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-Regarding to claim 26, as similarly applied to claims 1-15, 17-20, set forth above and herein incorporated, Hartman discloses an apparatus (200) (see figure 2) comprising a processor (208) and a wireless transceiver (212, 214, 216), the apparatus adapted to send a medium reservation request message via a wireless link to a first station (104) (see figure 2) to initiate training and to request a medium reservation, the apparatus further adapted to select at least one data transmission parameter based upon training feedback included within a medium reservation reply message received from the first station (see also (916, of figure 9)).

-Regarding to claim 28, Hartman discloses that the apparatus is adapted to send a medium reservation request message via a wireless link to a first station to initiate training and to request a medium reservation, the medium reservation request message including training information to allow the first station to measure a transmission condition (see figure 8).

-Regarding to claim 29, Hartman discloses that the wireless system further comprises a memory (210) coupled to the processor, and an antenna (206) coupled to the wireless transceiver (see figure 2).

-Regarding to claim 30, as similarly applied to claims 1-15, 17-20, set forth above and herein incorporated, Hartman discloses an apparatus (104) (see figure 2) comprising a processor (250) and a wireless transceiver (254, 256, 258), the apparatus adapted to receive a medium reservation request message via a wireless link from a first station, the apparatus further adapted to measure a transmission condition and send a medium reservation reply message to the first station, the medium reservation reply message granting the requested medium reservation and including training feedback to allow the first station to select at least one transmission parameter (see also figure 8).

-Regarding to claim 31, Hartman discloses that the medium reservation request message includes training information, the apparatus adapted to measure a transmission condition based on the received training information (see figure 8).

-Regarding to claim 32, similarly applied to claims 1-15, 17-20, set forth above and herein incorporated, Hartman discloses a method of transmitting information between first and second wireless stations (104, 200) (see figure 2), the method comprising: a training phase (see figure 8), the training phase

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including sending a medium reservation request message from the first station (200) to the second station (104) to request a medium reservation, measuring a transmission condition in response to the medium reservation request message, and sending a medium reservation reply message from the second station to the first station to grant the requested medium reservation and providing training feedback, the second station selecting at least one data transmission parameter based upon the received training feedback; and a data phase (see (916) of figure 9), where at least one data message is sent from the first station to the second station via the reserved medium according to the selected data transmission parameter.

-Claim 34 is rejected with similar reasons set forth for claims 17 and 19.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 16, 27 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hartman.

–Regarding to claim 16, Hartman does not disclose whether at least one of the medium reservation request message and the medium reservation reply message include a duration field to specify a duration of the requested medium reservation.

However, in Hartman, the first station (200) and second station (104) provide transmission to each other via allocated timeslots wherein the second station allocates timeslots for transmissions of the first station and determines whether the timeslots currently allocated to the first station are still acceptable for future transmissions (see col. 15, lines 1–58).

It would have been obvious for a person skilled in the art, within his skills, to implement Hartman in such a way that the medium reservation request message would include information about timeslots currently allocated to the first station, or a requested number of timeslots, specifying for a duration of the requested medium reservation so that based upon said

information, the second station would determine said timeslots is acceptable; and in reply, the medium reservation reply message would include a duration field to specify a duration of the requested medium reservation in order to inform the first station about said duration being newly allocated for the subsequent signal transmission of the first station. With such the implementation, the second station would be well-informed about request on the duration for the requested medium reservation and the first station would be well-informed about the newly-assigned duration for the requested medium reservation, in response to the request.

-Claims 27 and 33 are rejected with similar reasons set forth for claim 16.

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sanh D. Phu whose telephone number is (571)272-7857. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th from 7:00-17:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew D. Anderson can be reached on (571) 272-4177. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

**SANH D. PHU
PATENT EXAMINER**

Sanh D. Phu
Examiner
Division 2618
9/23/06

